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THE SUN, New York city.

LOCAL News.—The City and Suburban News Dureau of the United Passs and New York Associates Press as at 21 to 29 Ann street. All information and docu-ments for public use instantly disseminated to the press of the whole country.

More Rapid Transit Folly.

The report presented on Wednesday to the Rapid Transit Commissioners by their chief engineer puts the advocates of the scheme in a most humiliating position. After having vociferously proclaimed, for months preceding the election, that the rapid transit road for which they asked their fellow citizens to vote, was entirely practicable, and would not cost over \$50,000,000, if so much, they are now told by the Commission's own professional expert that it cannot be built without endangering all the buildings on Broadway below Fourteenth street, and that its proposed dimensions are insufficient for its purpose. The expert, therefore, submits, as the only practicable alternative, another road which he estimates will involve the expenditure of at least \$65,000,000, without allowing anything for damages to contiguous property, or to the cable surface road which now secuples Broadway!

In view of these facts, the Commissioners have prudently abandoned the original scheme of construction which they adopted in order to beguile their fellow citizens into giving them authority to spend \$50,000,-000; and are now occupied in devising some mutilated and dwarfed makeshift which they think will come within the limit of that sum. It may be that they can succeed in planning such an abortion; but whether they will be allowed by the courts and by their deluded and indignant constituents to do any more, remains to be determined. Thus far this fooling with rapid transit has only cost the taxpayers of this city half

The Irish Famine.

a million of dollars actual outlay.

Again we have news of something like famine among the peasantry of the west of Ireland, by reason of the failure of the year's potato crop there. The accounts of the state of things brought to us by the Irish papers are of the same nature, though not nearly so harrowing, as those which were printed in the dreadful year of 1847, and as others printed too often since then. There cannot possibly be such scenes at this time as there were in 1847, when the potato rot spread over the country and thousands perished of hunger, for a sympathetic world would surely prevent their reappearance; but, even already, the scenes are too grievous to be endured. The Chief retary for Ireland has officially notified the Cabinet that the distress is urgent, and that means ought to be taken to alleviate the suffering before the assembling of Parliament. According to the Dublin papers, the calamity is widespread, people are starving, and any relief under the Poor law is wholly inadequate for the emergency We are not aware that Lord ROSEBERY has made any response to the appeal of Mr. JOHN MORLEY, who, in this case, certainly

We think there must be in the United States a million immigrants from the most seriously afflicted region of Ireland, the counties of Sligo, Galway, Connemara, Mayo, and Clare. We suggest to these Irish-Americans that they have a duty to perform in this emergency. They might send an agent to western Ireland to gather such information as would serve to guide them in their action, or, better still, they might seek the advice of the Archbishop of Tuam, who is cognizant of the facts of the case. When this advice has been procured and it can be procured any day by cable they will know what they ought to do. The Irish-born people of the United States will certainly not permit their brethren in Connaught and Munster to starve. The English Ministry can no more be de-

pended upon in a matter of this kind than can the English authorities in Dublin, or even that well-meaning man, Mr. MORLEY It is by nature a good part of the old sod which is in the distress that has been brought upon it by English misgovernment, Irish landlordism, and the dependence of so large a portion of the peasantry upon a single crop. There would be an abundance of other land crops in western Ireland, and there would be fish crops galore, and there would be a plenitude of profitable industries, and there would be commercial interests far greater than now exist, from Galway Bay round to Cork Harbor, if England were not obstructive, or if Ireland were permitted to control her own fortunes. The western Irish are a hard-working people and belong

Tamsen and the Auctioneers.

to a strong old race of mankind.

That is an extraordinary and, let us hope, unfounded accusation which Sheriff-elect EDWARD J. H. TAMSEN makes for justification or condonation of his appointment of a nicture framer, a real estate collector, a re porter, and a haberdasher, as official auctioneers of the county of New York. This statement or intimation is that there exists among the 120 auctioneers of this town "a trust," and that the only way in which the business of auctioneering can be conducted. with honesty and fidelity, is to go outside of the number of these licensed officials.

An auctioneers' trust in New York, cor ruptly and dishonorably held together, and making it impossible for a reform Sheriff to employ any one of them! It is preposterous. It would be shameful, if true, and if not true, a wrong, only less serious in degree than the engaging of four German-American Reform politicians to act as auctioneers to a Reform Sheriff.

When did Mr. TAMSEN arrive in New York? Was it yesterday or the day before? Has he never heard of the auctioneers of the two real estate exchanges, who buy and sell in a year many millions of property by order of court, of executors, and of private individuals? Has he never heard of the anetioneers in the dry goods trade, the grocery track, the army tracks of business repcory trade, the drug trade and shipping

resented by published announcements? Has he never heard of sales of realty and household furniture, such as appear in the columns of THE SUN? Has he never heard of the United States Government and of the auction sales conducted by qualified auctioneers under the direction of the Treasury Department ?

Errors of ignorance are sometimes as reprehensible as maladministration by design, and Mr. Tamsen cannot mean to intimate seriously that all the 120 present auctioneers are in a "trust," and that no business honesty is procurable for the auction business, outside of the German-American Reform Union and its district leaders. Men speak lightly nowadays of "trusts;

and the combinations of capital which cheapen the cost of commodities or serve better the public convenience, invoke the reproach of some light-headed hystericals. But to charge all the auctioneers of New York city with being in a "trust," disqualifying them from employment by a public fficial, is a grave accusation. What combination could there be of all the auctioneers in town which would justify the Sheriff a public officer, in rejecting indiscriminately the claims of all to public employ ment? A combination not to use their fees, or any part of them, for the payment of the running expenses of the German-American Reform Union? Perhaps. Very likely. Mr. TAMSEN might with profit to himself hereafter inspect those provisions of the Penal Code, which relate to the distribution of political perquisites for public services. We refuse to believe that all the auctioneers of New York city are banded together in a way to deprive of their services the public business which needs them.

The Extraordinary Law Proposed for Germany.

There is one feature of the projected repressive laws, ostensibly aimed against the Socialists alone, which even the agrarian Conservatives must regard with deep misgiving, which the Clericals can be per suaded to accept only by a heavy bribe, and which the Radicals must oppose as vehemently as will the Socialists themselves.

We refer to the so-called India-rubber clause, whereby any subject of the German empire who, in speech or in print, whether sober or drunk, when addressing a public assembly or talking in a political or literary club, condemns monarchy, marriage, the family, or the institution of property, is liable to be arrested, brought before a magistrate, and punished as for a criminal act. Nor is the issue of fact to be determined by a jury. It is the magistrate, or, n graver cases, the Judge, who will decide ummarily whether the law has been broken, and what penalty shall be inflicted.

We have said that even Conservative landowners cannot regard the concession of such powers with equanimity. The proof is that during the agrarian agitation n East Prussia, an agitation rebuked by WILLIAM II. in his speech at Königsberg, the defenders of agricultural interests did not hesitate to reproach the Emperor for signing free-trade treaties, or to attack the institution of property as personified in the Jews who make usurious loans. As for the Clericals, the sympathy of their rank and file in certain districts with modified forms of the Socialist view of property, has been repeatedly exhibited; and although their party, as a whole, could probably be won over by a recall of the Jesuita to Ger many, it is doubtful whether the Gov ernment could secure the fulfilment of an agreement to that effect from the Bundesrath, or Federal Council. Then again, not a few of the Radicals, who follow Herr RICHTER, have expressed a theoretical preference for a republican over a monarchical government, and avowedly support the present regime from the point of view of expediency or opportunism. If the proposed law is passed, these Radicals must abjure their theories under penalty of being sent to jail. They must be careful, also, not to say, in public or private, that children ought to be independent of parents, or parents of eyond the existing laws.

As for the Christian Socialists, it is obvious that as Socialists they would be comoletely muzzled. The same thing would be rue of any German who should believe in Mr. HENRY GEORGE's plan for the nationalization of land, or who should desire any change in the present laws affecting usury Indeed, if one considers the comprehensive and elastic nature of the subjects which the contemplated legislation would render taboo, it appears that the only matters which Germans would be left free to discuss would be the existence of a God, the divinity of CHRIST, and the question of a religious foundation for the moral law. These latter topics are manifestly, in the judgment of the Kaiser and his Chancellor, much less sacred and momentous than the interests of

the monarchy and the rights of property. It is plain enough that this monstrous India-rubber clause, the purpose of which is to choke freedom of speech in Germany, and thereby paralyze the discussion which should precede every change in legislation, entirely fails to recognize the broad and fundamental distinction between the exposition of abstract ideas and direct incitation to attacks upon personal and property rights. It represents a long step backward from the ground taken by John Milton in his Areopagitica: "Let truth and falsehood grapple; so truth be in the field, we do injuriously to misdoubt her strength."

A Great Meeting and a Great Absence.

The centre of the world's thought and the pillar of its desire are to be found in St. Louis to-day, and will continue there all through to-morrow. The minds of most area and cultivation in the People's party will meet and confer while all the world wonders. From Kansas will come three men capable of reviving the art of speech if language should be lost elsewhere, and of governing parliaments by their eloquence and nations by their wiscom. First, if not greatest, of the three is Governor LOBAINE wheels, and not subject, as the earth was, according to Mr. A. WARD, to the Constitution of the United States. If there is anywhere, even in Kansas, the chief asylum of Populism, a statesman who can emit a more clarion note, wear his feet in a mouth more rotund, pursue plutocrats with a savager hulloo, and roam the field of Populism with bellowings more prodigious, let the man prove the claim and take first place. If not, then we salute the Hon. LOHAINE LEWEL-LING with the reverence due to a great talent. He is full of prophetic spirit. He knows how the universe was made, and is ready to unmake and remake it, free of charge. He eats monopolies raw. He is afraid of nothing under the cope of heaven except Mrs. M. E. LEASE. Hall to LEWELLING. But he is monstrously afraid of her.

From Kansas that has given up bleeding and taken to bloristing, comes, too, the Hon. WILLIAM ALPRED PEPFER, clothed in the majesty of his opgitations and surrounded by weltering oceans of hair. Railroads. owned by Kansas or the Government, run transcontinentally through his brain in every direction. If the number of hairs upon his industrious chin is 8,145,699,5, as computed by Prof. ELIARIM ROOSTE of Emporia, the number of bills he has introduced into the Senate cannot be less than a round 5,000,000, and they are principally upon finance. Ever since be got a bad quarter on the Atchison road, he has devoted himself to currency reform. His shirt bosoms and wristbands are made of hand-printed paper. Yet he is not satisfied with paper. He wants a more elastic medium, but he is not satisfied with rubber. Rubber is too valuable. A popular currency should have as little intrinsic value as possible. Mr. PEFFER will advocate at St. Louis a currency based mainly upon wind. One short breath will count as a dollar. Two medium breaths as ten dollars, and so on. It is an ingenious scheme and would make every Populist orator rich. Mr. PEFFER is deep as a well. Hail and good

day to him! Of the Hon. JERRY SIMPSON of Medicine Lodge, with his subterranean Sub-Treas uries and banks of deposit, what need to write? Where is the name of him unknown? He will not be in the next Congress! Congress is too small and too slow for him. He seeks the width of the West again. He has found it. But who knows what treasures of Populist thought he will reveal at St. Louis? Such men enrich the world. The snow that covers up so many sounds, cannot deaden the sound of the fastdropping and loud-popping thoughts of JERRY SIMPSON. His heart is on his sleeve and his hat is on his lips. Hall, indomitable bicycler of the windy roads of Populism!

Not unworthy to be named in the same day with these master spirits are Tom WATson, the Whirling Dervish of Georgia; LAFE PENCE, the Silver-lined Funnel of Colorado, and the Rev. JAMES HENDERSON KYLE, the Indercrat of South Dakota. The Government of all the Talents was a conclave of paretics compared with this Populist meeting at St. Louis. Yet one of the greatest of Populists is not there. Why is not GROVER CLEVELAND there? He has done vastly more for the Populists than they have ever been able to do for themselves. The income tax, the child of his brain, is to be a subject for the thoughts of the conventions. Currency reform will be there. The flower of Western Populism and Socialism will bloom at St. Louis to-day and to-morrow, but the flower, the fullblown rose of Eastern Populism and Socialism will be absent.

Perhaps Mr. CLEVELAND has written a letter to his St. Louis friends.

Brother Platt's New Religious Affiliations.

Brother PLATT's change of his church relationship involves no corresponding change in his theological views. Nor was he driven out of the Madison Square Presbyterian Church because his doctrinal opinions are in any way heretical as measured by the Westminster standard. He left simply because Dr. PARKHURST assailed and abused him on account of his political opinions. Dr. PARKHURST wants to be the political Boss himself, and he will not tolerate a rival Boss in Brother PLATT.

Brother PLATT is tired of being preached at as a political sinner and a moral reprobate, upon whom the means of grace are vainly expended. He wants to worship in peace. He wants to be at ease in Zion. But to attain his desire he has not sacrificed his theological convictions. In going over from Dr. PARKHURST's church in Madison avenue to the Marble Church in the Fifth avenue he has rather manifested the tenacity with which he clings to them. The theology of the Madison Square pulpit is as eccentric as its morals, and in remaining under its irregular teachings Brother PLATT really yielded to a sinful appetite for sensational oratory rather than sought the strong meat of sound doctrine for the upbuilding of his soul. He went to shurch for entertainment, and itual nourishment. When, therefore, at last the dish was spiced with objurgations of himself as a practical politician, the rest of the congregation might relish it all the more, but naturally it no longer suited his appetite. The Hon. SMITH ELY, in a neighboring pew, could enjoy the fun at the expense of a fellow statesman, but Brother PLATT, as the particular butt of the pulpit, felt differently. Religiously, however, the experience has

been profitable for Brother PLATT. He underwent a change of heart. His morbid appetite for the sillabub of pulpit sensationalism was destroyed, and was replaced by a healthy craving for the nourishing food of sound doctrine. He had gone to church to have his ears tickled. Hereafter he will visit the sanctuary to strengthen and uplift his soul with the Calvinistic theology on which he had been fed in his youth and earlier manhood. The Reformed Church to which he goes is Calvinistic in doctrine, though its creed is based on another confession of faith than that of Westminster. This is the confession adopted at Dort nearly three hundred years ago, and the Reformed Church has adhered to that standard of doctrine without any of the infidel tendencies which have been so marked among the nominal Presbyterians of late years. It is a branch of the Dutch Protestant Church, established here when New York was still a Dutch colony; and its conservatism is indicated by the circumstance that, until comparatively recent period, the Dutch language continued to be used in its services. Its theological belief is expressed in the Five Points of the Council of Dort: Predestination or election, the definite atonement of Christ, total depravity, conversion by grace alone, and the perseverance of the saints, all Calvinistic doctrines.

Brother PLATT, accordingly, relinquished no theological convictions which he has held as a Presbyterian in going over to the Reformed Church. The passage from the one Church to the other is frequently made by ministers as involving only LEWELLING, proudly revolving on his own a change of exterior relationship, and not of essential doctrine. Brother PLATI's orthodoxy was made questionable by his association with the go-as-you-please Madison Avenue Church. It is made first proof by his acceptance at the conservative Marble Church. However he may be politically, he is sound theologically, as tested by the Calvinistic standards.

The Marble Church, also, is peculiarly conservative as belonging to the collegiate system of churches of its faith in this city. an organization which is richly endowed, like Trinity Church of the Episcopalians. Under its present pastor, the Rev. Dr. BURNELL, it has entered more than formerly into the philanthropic activities now so generally associated with Protestant churches a New York, but it has shown no theoogical laxity. Brother PLATT's strict Preabyterianism and sense of reverence will never there receive the shocks to which they have had to submit in the Madison Square Church. Moreover, instead

of denouncing him as the vilest of sinners because he is a political Boss, Dr. BURRELL has declared that he is a man against whom no word can be said, and has expressed the opinion that in politics no less than in churches bosses may be necessary.

Hence, Brother PLATT both consults his personal comfort and exhibits his orthodoxy as a Presbyterian, in escaping from the revilings of Dr. PARKHURST and the theo legical perversity of Madison square, to get his spiritual and theological instruction in the Marble Church of the Fifth avenue. He is also proceeding in ac cordance with the very sound theory he has announced, that if Dr. PARKHURST is let alone "he will talk his head off." It will not be long before the rest of the people of New York are as tired of Dr. PARKHURST as Brother PLATT is now.

Old Times.

We have looked back over the old volumes of THE SUN, those numbers of it printed at the holiday season less than sixty years ago, to see how things went here in the city about New Year's time along between 1830 and 1850, or later. It appears by THE Sun's reports that the New Yorkers who lived, say from forty to sixty years ago, must have had a livelier time of it during the days in which the old year went out and the new year came in than we had a year ago, or will have next week. The folks of the older time gave themselves up to allaround merriment in the closing hours of December, often stayed up the whole night for a purpose, and were full of jollity the next day, or for several days. They visited each other, the whole lot of them, to pass the compliments of the season; they tramped around to house after house, from early dawn to dewy eve and later yet.

Anybody was welcome everywhere be tween 1830 and 1850; everybody "took something" at the homes of all friends and acquaintances; a good table, upon which there were plates and other properties, was set in every one's house; the mistress of every place, and all her children, excepting those of the boys who had gone out, awaited the day's visitors; and happiness reigned supreme, from the Battery up along the Bowery, and other streets higher than Canal street, away over in Greenwich village, by the sides of both rivers, and far out, at occasional spots, toward Harlem, not to speak of Kip's Bay and hundreds of other places. There were no California wines then, nor any lager beer (1830-'50), but we infer from the reports in THE SUN of old that other potables of a reviving kind flowed freely as the Hudson by the Palisades. We should judge from THE SUN's reports that a fair proportion of the New Yorkers of those times got tipsy, or half seas over, on New Year's Day, and had no fear of the constables (it was the pre-pantata epoch), and were patriotic, both Whigs and Democrats, and, in short, carried on in high old style, fearless of courts, jails, or Old Nick.

Perhaps the respectable New York descendants of the original Dutch had the best time of it at New Year's up to 1850, or thereabouts, for there were hardly any Germans or Irish here till then, and as for Italians, Slavs, Swedes, Jews, and such they could be counted on the fingers of one hand. The Methodists in those days stayed up beyond midnight of the last of December to pray the old year out and the new year in, and their shouts could be heard from the old church in John street as far up as the newer one in Sullivan street. New Year's Day was the day of all the year, better than Evacuation Day or Independence Day or any other; and any competent historian, novelist, or poet who would like to write it up for future generations can find piles of serviceable information in the old volumes of THE SUN, all of which are carefully stored away. Hardly anybody of the primitive stock took any notice of Christmas then, or, at least, it was not a day that

counted for much in the New York calendar. A change has been brought about within the past thirty or forty years, more especially iring the time that has elapsed war broke out. The New Yorkers now on the stage do not enjoy New Year's days like their forbears of the first half of our century. They don't, for themselves, ring out the old or ring in the new; they don't freshen up their friendship, or go about the town, or carry on, or eat New Year's cake, or smell schnapps, or enjoy the solid yet foaming oldfashioned fun. The people of to-day seem to be dry and dull, as compared with those of whom one can read in the way-back volumes of THE SUN, those numbers of it that were printed along about New Year's time.

It grows clearer every day that when President CLEVELAND invited Judge GRESHAM into his Cabinet with the appeal, "I need you," he knew exactly what he wanted. No one could have carried out with more complete perfection than GRESHAM the steady policy of pitiable ab surdities and fantastic and humiliating un-Americanisms, which have constituted the whole of CLEVELAND's management of our foreign affairs. With almost any other man, the CLEVY LAND idea of handling the opportunities of Executive power would probably have failed.

It was on Dec. 28, 1813, that a body of

British troops under Gen. RIALL approached Buffalo and began an attack. The place was defended by 1,700 men, poorly supplied with arms and ammunition, with no discipline, and almost no organization. They were reënforced by a regiment 300 strong, also destitute of ammunition. The British force consisted of about 1,450 men, mostly regulars, and a body of Indians. One detachment landed two miles be low Black Rock, in spite of a stubborn resistance on the part of the Americans guarding that point, and took possession of the battery The second detachment of the British army landed at a point between Buffalo and Black Rock under cover of a battery on the Canadian shore. Immediately on landing the British formed in line of battle and on the following day advanced to attack the Americans. Ge HALL, the commander of the American forces, attacked both wings of the British with hi militia and for a time made a gal-On the American left, which was lant fight. ommanded by Lient.-Col. BLAKESLIE, 400 men from Ontario county fought with conspicuous Finally the American centre was broken and the entire line was compelled to fall Lieut. Ripple, with eighty regulars. checked the pursuit of the British and enables the Americans to escape. Finding it was impossible to hold Buffalo, Gen. Hall left it to its fate. The British then began their programme of massacre and wanton destruction. Both Buffalo and Black Rock were burned to the ground and the inhabitants butchered without sercy. Many of the people were tortured before being put to death. Only one house and he stone jail in Buffalo were left standing, and in Islank Book every building except one log house was burned or blown up, while five vessels lying at the wharves were destroyed. This ex-pedition caused a less to the British of 108 men killed or wounded. More than fifty of the Americans were found dead on the field, while probably a larger number were wounded. On Dec. 28, 1864, an action took place be tween 1,200 mounted Confederates near Charlesown, Tenn., and a body of Union cavalry. The

confederate Gen. WHERLER attacked a supply

ain which was moving from Chattanoogs to

Knoxville, guarded by Col. BIRRENT. As the Unionists had only 100 man the supply train

was easily enphused, but Col. Loso, with a de-

came to his assistance, and after a desperat fight recaptured the train and dispersed Confederates, inflicting a loss of forty-one killed and wounded and 123 prisoners. The loss of th Unionists was sixteen. Our clever weekly contemporary, Toton Topics, publishes a vivid portrait of Senator LEXOW; and truth and candor require us to de clare that Laxow is a very good looking man, and very well dressed besides. At first sight we thought it was a portrait of John D. CRIMMINS.

tachment of the Fourth Ohio Cavalry, and Col.

LAIROLD with the Second Missouri Infantry

The six English novelists, beginning with RUDYARD KIPLING and ending with CONAN DOYLE, who have visited New York this year, were probably in pursuit of plots. All the English and French plots have been worked up, squeezed out, and put away to dry. The tales of high life, low life, shady life, freckled life, intrigue, horror, swagger, happiness, vengeance hot blood and cold, chivairy, tulgarity, drivel, and all else, have already been turned into cash by their hungry writers. The English povelist who can find in England a brand-new plot, or one that a hundred other

novelists have not taken a hack at, must be a man of brains; and such men are scarce. But this country of ours has never been properly explored by any of the qualified English plot hunters. We can tell them that it is full of the best and freshest plot stuff. It is richer in that than in corn, cotton, or coal. Our plot crop is a hundred times better than the English, and it is ripe for the sickle, too. Every day we see plots going to seed for lack of harvesters They can often be found in THE SUN, cut short; but the true novelist ought to know how to string them out, shine them up, dip them in the colors, and then make search for a liberal publisher. Very few of our New York novel writers seem to be able to do this kind of work in firstclass style.

It looks to us as though those of their English rivals who have been making notes in New York this year would get ahead of them in the market.

It is right that there should be strict rules for the issue of life-saving medals by the Treasury; yet no man who has merited one of them by risking his own life at sea to save other lives in peril ought to be denied the gift. Even if the number of men ready to take such risk be large, there cannot in a lifetime be many opportu nities for any of them to take it. We do not know whether Secretary Carlisle or Superintendent KIMBALL has yet heard of the rescue of a shipwrecked American crew, in a storm near the English coast a short time ago, by a jollyboat load of gallant German sailors. The facts of the case have been printed in THE SUN.

GOVERNOR TILDEN'S PROPHECY. We Can New See Its Realization.

From the Oswego Times. THE NEW YORK SUNgives a prophecy made by Governor Tilden shortly after the war of the rebellion, which is worth reading in the present con dition of the Democratic party. It is as follows: In a conversation held some after the civil war, between Mr. Tilden and a gentleman who had been a conspicuous citizen of a seceding State, the Southern gentleman said that the Democratic party appeared to be permanently disabled and broken down. Mr. Til and it is broken down. Yet it will come up again

den's reply was characteristic and most interesting.
"It seems to be broken down at present," he said, and it will once more gain control of the Government-But this situation will not be permanent. In order to come into power, the Democracy must have the support and assistance of the Southern States; and that support and assistance may very soon prove to be its Democracy utterly, and being poor, they will try to foist into the Democratic programme ideas and measures contrary to all Democratic principles. Against this the whole country will protest. The United States will never consent to be governed by the South or by such Southern ideas. The Democracy will be voted down; and then its last situation will be worse than

When Mr. Tilden delivered his memorable prophecy he had no idea that such a man as Grover Cleveland could be raised to the head of the Democracy through any wild delusion of popular sentiment; and thus the calamity which he forefold has come upon the coun try much sooner than he could have believed it to b Is it to be lasting, or will the combined incubus of

Clevelandism and Populism be lifted from the shoul-ders of the Democracy before its life is extinguished? This prophecy is realized at the present time. The Southern wing of the Democratic party is ret in control. The Northern part, though much the stronger, submits to Southern dictation. They must have their way. They forced Cleveland on the party, and he has appointed Southern men to office, such as Carliale, or forthern men with Southern n man Carlisle is now working a scheme to provide what he designates a flexible currency. This is simply to revive the old State wildcat system of banking. The South demands a flexible system of issuing bills on poor security. If it passes into law you will see any number of sanks of issue in the ex-rebel States. They will issue any quantity of bills, which will work their way into Northern pockets in payment of debts, and the banks will go down and the holders of these bills will lose them. This is a dexible currency.

Our Cat.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Glad at last to and evidence going to show the sex of your cat. In to-day's issue you inform us that the awful swallow of blatherskite documents "has never been away." dways suspected that it wasn't a Tom. Monayow! NEW YORK, Dec. 27.

They Like The Sun.

From the Democrat, Sturgeon Bay, Wis.
THE NEW YORK SUN is universally admitted to be the odel newspaper of the world. Although Dem n politics. THE SUN is entirely independent in the ion of its convictions, no journal in the cou try having denounced more emphatically the anti-American policy of President Cleveland and the treat ment by Congress of the tariff question. We repeat what we have said for many years, if you want the news of the world in the most con news of the world in the most comprehensive and in-teresting form, then take any of the editions of Time Sun, but if possible subscribe for the daily issue, the reading of which is a liberal education and will cost ou only two cents a day.

From the Journal, Bellon, Tex. THE NEW YORK SUN IS always stimulating From the Elmira Daily Advertiser. THE SUN IS nothing if not lively.

The Bay State Codfish and the Iconoclasts

From the Boston Evening Transcript.

The announcement that the State House Commissioners have decided not to suspend the famous cod flah from the dome of the new Hail of Representatives has called forth protests from several of the more sentimental members of the incoming Legisla-ture, and one member from the Cape district has an ure, and one member from the appropriate providing counced his intention of offering a resolve providing the historical figure in the new for the placing of the historical figure is linuse. As matters look now, the issue is likely to prove of no little interest, for there will be a number tennoclasts in the next Great and General Court to take up the cudgels in defence of the State House pressed themselves as approving the action of the oners, and say that the matter may be com promised by having the codfish placed in a glass case

From the Rochester I emocrat and Chronicis. Rochester woman recently saw, in New York, a seautiful old French clock, and has often m brandful out recent close, and the present he fam.

If distribution was made, she found among her ciffs the measilest kind of a toy clock, which upon being opened disclosed an owl upon its perch. This choice gift bore a card inscribed. "Louis XIV. clock marked down from Louis XVI."

At the Theatre.

From l.ife.
-Would you not like to go cut and "see a man !" Re-Why, no: I would not think of it She But ready, I sha'n't object in the least. He How stourd! How can you my such a thing! She Well to tell the truit. I want to see a man my-self, and I know he won't come over while you are

Profession and Practice. From Brookiyo Life. you going to marry for! Ho-do thijs I one tire up to my profunio

SOME NEW ORDNANCH WORK.

One Cotton and Emmenatte to Shells-Inter-

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.-There is good ground to expect that both the army and the navy will sefore long make considerable advances in the use of high explosives as the bursting charges of shells thrown from ordinary powder guns. In deed, the confidence felt in scouring such results s doubtless at the bottom of much of the indifference manifested toward pneumatic guns. Adverse reports, as is known, have been made by the Ordnance Bureau on such guns in the Vesuvius. while Secretary Lamont, in referring to those which are mounted at Sandy Hook, and are to bemounted at San Francisco, remarks that, " in view of pending promising experiments with a powder gun for firing high explosives, further

purchases are not recommended."

The experiments thus alluded to presumably take in the safe firing of two 714-pound charges of emmensite in 7-inch shells from an Amer rifled gun with 25-pound powder charges, and two other charges, one exceeding 106 and the other nearly 111 pounds, from the 12-inch mortar with 20 pounds of powder each. The wo smaller charges showed what could be done safely with a powder gan at point-blank range. the oak target being about fifty yards distant. The target was perforated without explosion.

But it has never been a question that very small charges could thus be fired safely where the expelling charge of powder was also very small. Hence more interest attaches to the two rounds from the big mortar, with their very

small charges count this be need salely where the expelling charge of powder was also very small. Hence more interest attaches to the two rounds from the big mortar, with their very heavy charges. Hera, size, the expelling or powder charge was small, but it was sufficient to give a range of about 2.200 yards. Again, the pneumatic gun is essentially one of high-angle fire, so that it resembles the mortar in this respect. The two shells buried themselves in the earth without explosion.

It may be suggested that this failure to explode was not due to the lack of a detonator, but to the bad quality of the emmensite. But on using dry gun cotton and fulminate of mercury as a detonator, and an electric primer, a shell containing six rounds of the remnessite was promptly exploded, showing that it was effective, yet could not be exploded by mere shock.

With these results achieved, the next step will be the important one of converting one of the old 15-incn smooth bores into a rife, and firing from it ten cast-steel shell, each capable of carrying 200 pounds of emmensite and wet gun cotton. It is believed that these enormous charges may be asfoly fired, and, if this turns out to be the case, not only will a great step be taken toward solving the high-explosive problem, but in addition an important use will be suggested for the big smooth bores.

The navy has fired from the 6-inch gun 80-pound shells containing each about 11 pounds of wet gun cotton. These were supplied with dry gun cotton primers and detonators. They exploded with tremendous violence in the side of a hill, but one of them made very little impression when fired against a 7-inch plate. On increasing the charge, so as to give about 1,800 feet per second of velocity, instead of 1,400, one of these gun cotton shells exploded in the bore. It was found, however, that the trouble was that the walls of the shell being less than a third of an inch thick, had bulged under the pressure, and checked its course sufficiently to cause the primer and cap to fly forward

JUST SHORT OF SUCCESS.

Lazy Inventor's Experiment with a Won derful Alligator Engine,

From the Electrical Review "My boy once had a pet alligator that was pretty flerce." observed Meckin, the lazy in-ventor. "When he teased this young saurian the beast would swipe out with its powerful tail in an amazing fashion, without doing itself or anybody else any good. It occurred to me that here was a splendid example of wasted energy,

here was a splendid example of wasted energy, and I set out to devise a means of conserving it and turning it to some useful purpose.

"I spent a winter in Florida, and, after I had experimented with some of the small 'gators that are supplied to tourists for a consideration, I ordered some big fellows. After some little trouble I secured ten 'gators, each about trouble I secured ten 'gators, each about four feet in length and of about ten horse power tail capacity. My scheme for utilizing their tail power was this: The 'gators were placed side by side in stalls, which left their tails free to wag. I had upright beams set like pendulums, the swinging ends of the beams coming close enough to the 'gators' tails to be in a good position for action. Then I built a tank over the stalls and filed it with thundering big cannon balls. There was an inclined chuter running from the tank to tank over the stalls and filled it with thundering big cannon balls. There was an inclined chute running from the tank to a power wheel made with hollow places in the rim, something like a water wheel. In the chute I had a valve to regulate the flow of cannon balls. Half the 'gators were used to work the cannon ball part of the machine, and the other half to run a conveyor contrivance to lift the balls back into the tank after they had done their work in turning the wheel. I connected a small dyname by a belt to a pulley wheel on the power-wheel shaft. My main circuit ran from the dyname to a bank of incandescent lamps, which were to be used ncandescent lamps, which were

of incandescent lamps, which were to be used in the test.

"When everything was ready, the wheels olled up, main switch closed, and the 'gators pretty mad, I hired four little colored boys to go along in front of the stalls and crack the 'gators on the head with short clube. This made 'em awful mad, and so they struck out with their talls. Then the old shebang commenced to run. A little coon would hit a 'gator on the head, he'd let out with his tall, strike a beam, open the valve, let out a cannon ball, which rolled down the chute and onto the wheel, turning it around. Then the ball rolled back to the conveyor and was hoisted up by one of the other 'gators. She was humming beautifully, but I had forgotten one thing: that was a governor. The little coons liked their work and lambasted the 'gators' unmercifully. I stopped 'em but the wild animals were beyond control. They hashed around until the speed got so high that the armature of the dynamo burned out with a flash. The 'gators running the conveyor got into a race with the other fellows and hoisted up cannon balls so fast that the tank got overweighted and broke down. The cannon balls fell on the 'gators' heads and killed every one of 'em. Fact, I assure you."

Jove's Upward Cuts. From the St. Louis Republic.

It is hard for the mind to conceive of a light-ning flash taking other than a downward course when it strikes objects on the earth's surface, but there are many well-authenticated cases of it there are many well-authenticated cases of e bolt taking the opposite direction. A mase in ind happened at Manchester, England, in agust, 1888, where the bolt was distinctly en to strike the base of a large cast-fron chim-y, and then to take an unward slant, burning crooked river in the metal from the point of ntact to the top, where it escaped into the at-sphere and exploded in the manner of an im-ence tire tail.

notice fire ball.

At Monticello, i.e., on June 21, 1803, a tree near
the residence of G. If. George was struck by a
lightning flash and torn in a manner which
clearly indicated that the current had passed
upward from the earth.
The director of the lows Weather Servt.
Corps tells me that while upward lightning
struces are reckoned as fresks and phenomena
by the layman, they are not of infrequent occurrence, and have often been reported by meteorobsgical observers.
In one or two of the Solomon Islands and at
several places on the Insian Ocean coast of
Africa the upward strucks is said to be the runs
and the downward the exception.

The Tarastula as a Weather Sharp. From the Selma Irrig

Prove the Schma Irregutor.

P. H. Baker of Traver made a trip to Panoche grade last week, and on his return told of sema weather aigns pointed out to him by an old Mexican of that section.

The Mexican showed him a number of tarantia nests that were built in an unusual manner. The tarantinia dign or appropriates a hole six or eight inches deep, and searly an inch in diameter. He then makes a cement wall from bottom to top of the hole and about a sixteenth of an inch thick. On the top he fits a lid so nicely that when it is closed the meat is impervious to the closurents. He raises and lowers the read of his mansion by means of a fibre hings, which he has defity placed on one ade. The wails are always built to half an inch above the ground, but the pseudarity about them his year is that they are built up four or five inches above the surface of the ground on which they are located.

This is one of the many instances that have been observed by instance to protect themselves assing inclined as in the laws been observed by instance to protect themselves assing inclined age of a very weareness.

THE NEW HEROINE.

A Scone from the Brams of To-morres

From Pench.
Edwin—And do you really love me? Angelina-With all my heart and soul; and

Edwin-Yet what? Angelina, why do you ook so strangely at me? There is something on

your mind, something you have not the courage to tell me. Angelina-Edwin, I can hide nothing from rou. Even though it should wreck both our

lives, you have the right to know the truth Edwin-My own darling, what is in your heart! Angelina-Can you bear to hear it? Don's look at me or I shall not have the courage to say what must be said. Edwin, I have never lived a disreputable life.

Edwin (burying his face in his hands)-Great Heaven; and I believed in you so utterly. (Then rising, with a desperate effort to control his smotlers.) (Roughly

rising, with a desperate error to control me smotton.) Good-by.
Angelina (falling on her knees, and clinging to him)—Ah. no. you shall not go. Think of it. Ed-win, of the temptations to virtue that sur-rounded me of the examples of simple girlhood that poisoned my youth. If I have lived a life of spottess innocence, remember, at least, that it knew no better. What else could I do? Brough up from earliest infancy by a mother of un-

of spotiess innocence, remember, at least, that I knew no better. What else could I do? Broughs up from earliest infancy by a mother of unblemished reputation?

Edwin (with a gesture of horror)—Your mother, too? Angelina, our marriage is impossible.

Angelina—How hard you men are! Is your sex alone to have the monopoly of innocence? Must there always be one law for women and another for dramatic authors? Oh, it is cruell cruel! But you will not leave me. Remember, I am still young: it is never too late to err. And is it because I am a woman that I am to be denied the chance of retrieving the innocence of a misspent youth by the indiscretions of a riper womanhood? Besides, are there not cases, cases known to us both, where a wife has lived down the terrible reproach of a blameless girlhood? Why, even Mr. Jones's latest heroine, and there is nothing later than that, could not absolutely prove she had gone wrong, and yet her husband took her back! But you are so proud, so relentess. You have no pity in your heart.

Edwin—Belleve me, it is not pride. For myself, I would giadly brave the censure of the world, and if in after years men should say in scorn he married her though there was nothing against her, I should still be happy, knowing I had your love. But my father, that dear old? It is too horrible!

Angelina (with bowed head)—You are right; I had forgotten your father.

Edwin—How could I ever look into that sweet.

it? It is too horrible!

Angelina (with bowed head)—You are right; it had forgotten your father.

Edwin—How could I ever look into that sweet, wrinkled face, and meet those reverend eyes, knowing that I was asking him to receive as e daughter one who had never even once strayed from the paths of virtue?

Angelina—I see it all now. Good-by.

Edwin—Good-by.

Angelina (as he is going)—Edwin, come back, Edwin—Ah, don't torture me, I can bear ne more!

more!
Angelina—But what if I were to tell you that this confession, so humiliating to us both, was but a ruse to test the strength of your devotion?
Edwin—Ah, don't raise a false hope within me, only to plunge me again in the abyse of despair!

lespair:
Angelina—But this is no false hope.
Edwin (eagerly)—What do you mean?
Angelina (burying her head on his shoulder
mean that I have been no better than I sho Edwin (embracing her)-My own true love

othing can part us now. [Curtain]. SUNBEAMS.

Baggage cars running out of the Grand Control whether across the continent or on short local runs, usually have strong tronciad doors to guard against the still possible train robber.

—The thrown-away ends of carbons of electric lights in Williamsburgh are eagerly gathered up by sufferent from rheumatism, who believe that by carrying around leces of the carbon the pain is less -An Italian shoemake r's sign bears a small painted Italian flag marked "Italy," and another banner of eleven alternate red and white stripes and twenty-five stars in a blue field marked "Merican."

-Black walnut is a scarce wood these days, but old farms about Philadelphia still afford to the cabinetmaker noble specimens of the tree. It is said that a plack walnut 100 years old will fetch in that reg

-"Genuine musk pods " are exhibited in the win. dow of a druggist making a specialty of perfume Genuine animal musk is a comparatively scarce arti-since a cheap near equivalent has been discovered

—A Catholio priest in Williamsburgh, who was re-cently robbed of three chickens and two days lates jost four fine big geese which he was fattening for the holidays, has placerds pasted all over the church prop-erty offering \$25 reward for the conviction of any one assing in his poultry yard. -Football playing is not only esteemed an excellent

advertisement for a college, but some preparatory schools are said to have gone to the length of enticing good players from rival schools by the offer of free tuttion. This means a good deal, since tuition in a fashionable preparatory school costs a pretty sum -There are only three really good varieties of the

wild strawberry, and one of these is the parent of the much-prized cultivated variety. The wild berry is seldom or never seen in this market, but in Canada where labor is cheap and the berries are abundant they are picked by country folks and sold in the citi and towns. -Seventh avenue is beginning to feel the exedu

ter, and in Twenty-third street is peppered thickly with French business concerns. A new French restaurant springs he like abound.

presence of the small boy in the club house. He usually comes with his father to luncheon, and accepts s not unusual in a few Brooklyn club houses to see a member dining with his whole family, though t ladies' dining room is not a feature of many New York

-It is now possible to send an express package to almost any place in the United States above the dig-nity of a cross roads hamlet, and such is the comity prevailing among the companies that almost any one of them will accept packages to be sent to places within the exclusive territory of another. The busiess has grown enormously within twenty years, and

it is no more a mystery to the bulk of the peop -An unusual sight in Williamsburgh the other day was a Jap and a Chinaman walking along the street laundry kept by a Japanese, and diagonally opposite is one kept by a Chinaman. The proprietors were on good terms until the breaking out of the war in the East, since which time they have scarcely recognised

each other. -Pocketknife blades are very unevenly tempered. Even in so-called standard cutiery some blades are hard and some are soft. For the latter there is no remedy, but the temper of hard blades can easily be drawn slightly. Take a kitchen poker and heat it red hot, have the blade that is to be drawn, bright, and bold it on the poker for a moment. When the color runs down to violet blue stick the blade into a piece of tallow or beef suct until coid.

-Typewriting by the piece costs at least fifty per cent. more here than in Great Britain. The best women typewriters in New York, those who have lit-tle offices of their own, work with remarkable care and accuracy. They are feeling the current hard times, however, and, though schedule rates have not been reduced, there is much less work to be done, and ome of the boss typewriters, so to speak, have re-

duced the number of their assistants. —A German periodical devoted to wood industries announces that food products consisting partly of wood are now manufactured. At Berlin a factory has been built which is turning out about 200 quintals of wooden bread a day. Sawdust is subjected to chemical treatment, after which it is mixed with one third faring and prepared like ordinary bread. The product at present serves only as food for horses, but the Berlin Transway Company, which is the most important customer of the factory, is well pleased with the results. The manufacturers say that wen-bread constitutes also an excellent food for man.

-Now that so much of the West has ceased to be distinctly new country, and presents in general the social and inusiness conditions of the Eastern States, the idea of migration thither offers fewer attractions to young men in New England, and they show an increasing tendency to try their fortunes at home. This is repectally noticeable in Haine, where trade and agri-culture are alimulated by markets created by visitors drawn children by its houting and fishing and its summer resorts. It is estimated, on official authority, that the population of Maine is now 727,000, a gain of 71,000 in four years, and the remaining years of the decade promise to show even more rapid increase.

Gen. livalus, who has just been placed on the retired list of the army, arrved during reconstruction days in the nouth and aroused the entity of some ex-Confederate officers, until at length there came an incomation that he would be challenged to s duct. His reply was that if the challengs came he should accept because he would regard it as in effect a continuation of the war on a small scale. Immedi-ately thereafter he began to practice with a rifle the art of waiking away from an enemy and then turn-ing the body so as to fire without actually executing a right about face. He became remarkably shilled in this movement, but for that reason or some the challenge never came. It was to aim's intent had he been challenged to choose the arms ride as the weapon for the duel and to execute his experimen-